



# The Quarterly Quill

Fall 2005

Newsletter from the City Council of Williamsburg, VA

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## State Gives High Praise for City's Environmental Stewardship

Upon completion of a thorough "Compliance Evaluation," Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board (CBLAD) met on September 19, 2005 to act on the recommendation of its staff to declare Williamsburg in compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

Here are excerpts from the CBLAD report\* about Williamsburg's performance:

From the beginning the City of Williamsburg has implemented a strong Bay Act program that reflects both the letter and the spirit of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act while often exceeding the minimum requirements of the Regulations...

Over the last three decades the City has also permanently protected hundreds of acres of land around Waller Mill Reservoir, Lake Matoaka and along College Creek in order to protect open space and water quality. The City has pursued conservation easements and participated in land swaps to protect hundreds of additional acres of environmentally sensitive lands...

The City complements its strong regulatory enforcement and open space protection programs with an innovative regional stormwater management program. The program protects water quality by allowing developers to purchase water quality or open space credits. The City's regional stormwater management program helps minimize the expense of monitoring numerous water quality best management practices on private property, ensures proper and timely maintenance by the City's highly trained staff, protects significant

amounts of habitat, and provides attractive recreational and aesthetic amenities to the community... Finally, the City strives to lead by example on its own projects. For example, the City's new Strawberry Plains Subdivision was designed to cluster its single-family homes in order to permanently protect a significant portion of the site as open space.

The City of Williamsburg prides itself on facilitating high quality development that not only meets current market demands, but also protects water quality, open space and the unique historic character of the community... The City's consistent enforcement of its CBPA program over the past 14 years combined with its innovative water quality protection and open space preservation initiatives marks the City of Williamsburg as an outstanding local partner in the protection and improvement of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's natural environment.

Credit for these achievements certainly goes to City Council who has consistently shown the political will to uphold the "letter and spirit" of the Chesbay Act; and without the expertise and sacrifice of the following city staff members in particular, this success would not have happened: Planning Director Reed Nester, Zoning Administrator Carolyn Murphy, Zoning Officer Jason Beck, and City Engineer Steve Martin.

\* A complete copy of the "Initial Compliance Evaluation Report" is available in the City Manager's office, or via the City's website at: [www.williamsburgva.gov](http://www.williamsburgva.gov)

## News Worthy

- City Council and Planning Commission meetings may now be viewed live via streaming media on the City's website at: [www.williamsburgva.gov](http://www.williamsburgva.gov) (click on "e-Government" and then "eMeetings"). Archived meetings may also be viewed at your leisure. For more information on the City's e-government services, please call 220-6189.
- The Williamsburg Farmers' Market continues on Saturdays through October 29. The Market will also participate in the Merchants Square Harvest Fest on Saturday, October 8 (8:00 a.m. – noon), and Sunday, October 9 (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.). Special Holiday markets will be held November 19, November 26, and December 10. For more information, please contact Market Manager Libbey Oliver at 259-3768, or access their website at: [www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com](http://www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com).
- Leaf Collection will begin November 1, 2005 and continue through December 30, 2005. Our goal is to be in each neighborhood once a week, weather permitting. Please rake leaves curbside, not in the street or blocking the sidewalk for pick-up. Commingled leaf piles will not be picked up. Questions? Please call 220-6140.

## *Richmond Road – Extreme Makeover*

The Richmond Road Improvement Project, extending from Brooks Street to New Hope Road, began some time ago by placing power lines and switches underground. Now the street work proper has begun. The critical location of this road makes this one of the most needed, but also challenging, projects ever undertaken in the City. Major funding for this project as well as primary construction management is being provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The VDOT contractor for this project is Branscome, Inc., who has set up construction trailers on the Casey Field property on Lafayette Street.

The project will include:

- Widening Richmond Road from Monticello Avenue to New Hope Road, thereby adding a second westbound through lane and a center dual left turn lane. This will increase traffic capacity, reduce congestion, and improve vehicular movement and access to adjacent commercial properties.
- Brooks Street to the Williamsburg Shopping Center will not be widened, but will be restriped for three lanes. Sidewalks, curbs and gutters, driveways, and asphalt surfaces will all be replaced. Landscaping, created by a private-public plan, will be added to enhance the corridor.
- The traffic signals at both Monticello Avenue and Mt. Vernon Avenue will be replaced. Pedestrian activated signals will be included at both intersections.
- Remaining overhead utility lines will be relocated underground. New streetlight poles and fixtures will be installed, improving both pedestrian and motorist visibility.
- The City's water and sewer lines will be replaced and/or rehabilitated, and storm drainage improvements will be made.

Richmond Road will remain open during the entire construction period. While some work will be performed at night to reduce inconveniences to traffic, the general work hours will be during the day to maximize the project progress and to minimize nighttime noise for neighboring residences and lodging establishments. **All businesses in the project area will remain open and accessible at all times.**

As work progresses, the Virginia Department of Transportation will provide status reports to help motorists navigate the area. A link to these VDOT reports can be accessed via the City's website at: [www.williamsburgva.gov](http://www.williamsburgva.gov) (click on "current news" and then "Richmond Road Construction Update"). Please take advantage of this information. If you need assistance, or have any questions or concerns during this construction, please contact the VDOT Williamsburg Residency at 253-4832, or the City of Williamsburg Department of Public Works at 220-6140.

This project will complete a long-term effort to improve this critical corridor. The anticipated completion date in December 2006 coincides with the projected increase in traffic for the Jamestown 2007 Commemoration. As in all major road construction projects, there will be delays and frustration over the coming months. We thank you in advance for your patience during this time, and encourage you to view the road construction updates to better plan your daily travel.

## *Williamsburg Hires an Economic Development Manager*

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On August 8, 2005, Michele Mixner DeWitt joined the Williamsburg City staff as its first Economic Development Manager. In this role, she will assist existing and new businesses with their needs and promote Williamsburg as a premier business location. As one of her first tasks, she will be creating an inventory of available commercial land and buildings in the city. The inventory will be used to link business expansions and new locations to appropriate facilities or land within the City. If you have available property, please contact Michele to add the details to the inventory.

Additionally, part of the Economic Development Manager's role is to meet with existing and potential businesses.

- Do you have a business in Williamsburg?
- Are you thinking of starting a business in Williamsburg?
- Do you know someone who might open a business in Williamsburg?

Contact Michele Mixner DeWitt at (757) 220-6120, or [mdewitt@williamsburgva.gov](mailto:mdewitt@williamsburgva.gov) to discuss these further.

## *Join Us in Learning More About Jamestown 2007, America's 400th Anniversary*

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You're invited to the second Jamestown 2007 Community Conversation at the Freight Shed Building, Riverwalk Landing, York County on Thursday, September 29, 2005 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Hosted by Senator Tommy Norment and the Jamestown 2007 Host Committee, the meeting will provide an overview of the 225th Anniversary of the Siege at Yorktown, a 2007 Signature Event, and will include a panel discussion with 2007 officials on the Commemoration preparations and events.

As a special treat, Ben and Jerry's will provide ice cream coupons for all who attend the meeting. All residents are welcome.

For more information about the Community Conversation, please contact 2007 Host Committee Manager Kyra Cook at 253-4616 .

## *New System for Resident Parking Zones*

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The City's resident parking ordinance is designed to maintain available on-street parking for residents in certain neighborhoods.

Effective September 1, 2005, the City amended the program to provide a color-coded system in an effort to prevent decaded vehicles from parking in different regulated areas. Resident parking zones have been divided into 5 colors: black, blue, green, red and yellow, with signs posted in each color zone identifying the color decal required to park within that respective zone.

Parking permit decals are now color-coded to correspond to the color-coded parking zones. Display of colored residential parking permits allows the decaded vehicle to be parked in the residential parking area for which it was issued. Violation of the resident parking ordinance will result in a \$25.00 fine.

If you observe a parking violation in your neighborhood, please call the Police Department at 220-2331. For additional inquiries pertaining to parking permits, please call the Finance Department at 220-6180 or access the City's website at: [www.ci.williamsburg.va.us/dept/finance/parking.PDF](http://www.ci.williamsburg.va.us/dept/finance/parking.PDF)

## *Tax Deferral Program*

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The City of Williamsburg continues to provide a real estate property tax relief program for disabled or elderly persons meeting certain income and financial limitations. For more information, please contact City Assessor John Mattson at 220-6184.

## City of Williamsburg

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### City Administrators

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Jodi Miller  
*Assistant City Manager*

Joseph Phillips  
*City Attorney*

Phil Serra  
*Finance Director*

T.K. Weiler  
*Fire Chief*

Paul Hudson  
*Parks & Rec. Director*

Reed Nester  
*Planning Director*

James Yost  
*Police Chief*

Dan Clayton  
*Public Works Director*

Peter Walentisch  
*Human Services Director*

Judy Nightingale Fuqua  
*Commissioner of Revenue*

M. Ann Davis  
*Treasurer*

David R. Andrews  
*Voter Registrar*

## The Quarterly Quill

Published quarterly by the staff of the City Manager's Office. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please contact Jodi Miller, Assistant City Manager or Gerry Walton, Administrative Assistant at 220-6100 or [citymanager@williamsburgva.gov](mailto:citymanager@williamsburgva.gov). City of Williamsburg, 401 Lafayette Street, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

## Do You Have a Fire Hydrant on Your Property?

In order to provide fire protection to you and your neighbors, it is imperative that fire hydrants remain visible and accessible in the event of an emergency. Because many neighborhood fire hydrants are located in homeowner yard areas, it is especially important that shrubs, trees, and other plant materials not be allowed to encroach into the space surrounding the hydrant. Plantings designed to camouflage the hydrant from homeowner views may also conceal the hydrant from emergency personnel. Valuable time may be lost if the Fire Department is unable to see or access a hidden fire hydrant.

When planting around a fire hydrant it is best to plant at least three feet away and be cognizant of the plant material's growth habits. For example, a popular ground cover such as ivy, if left to its natural growth pattern, can totally obscure a fire hydrant.

A good visibility test is to place yourself in the position of a firefighter standing at the fire hydrant. Are you able to access the three hose couplings on the sides and front? Would an 18"-long fire hydrant wrench spin in a 360-degree circle? Is your fire hydrant damaged? Please call the Fire Department at 220-6220 to report a damaged fire hydrant, or if you need assistance in clearing obstructions. An obstructed or hidden fire hydrant could mean the difference between saving or losing property and lives.

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The Quarterly Quill?  
Please call 220-6100.**



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# CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG

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Fall 2005

To the Citizens:

Fall is a beautiful and busy time of year in Williamsburg. With fall comes the beginning of the school year for students. This year we have the opportunity to welcome two new educational leaders to our community, President Gene Nichol, the twenty-sixth President of the College of William and Mary, and Dr. Gary Mathews, Superintendent of the Williamsburg/James City County Public Schools. Both of these educational leaders have the experience and vision to lead our educational institutions with great vigor and enthusiasm.

President Nichol, a scholar of constitutional and civil rights law, taught at William and Mary School of Law from 1985-1988 and has served as the dean at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law and the law school at the University of Colorado. Not only have we welcomed President Nichol to the City, the City has also participated in a number of activities welcoming William and Mary students back to Williamsburg. Some of the activities included participating in the new student orientation, hosting neighborhood block parties to encourage students and residents to get to know one another, and hosting a meeting and reception for the student leadership to discuss issues of mutual interest to students and the City.

Dr. Gary Mathews, known for his work in data-driven, research-based school improvement, served as Superintendent in St. Augustine, Florida; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Rockwood, Missouri; and Carroll ISD, Texas. Dr. Mathews will be leading the school division in a time of growth as we move forward in building the Third High School and begin planning for a new elementary school. Dr. Mathews will also continue the progress that has occurred in addressing minority student achievement issues.

On behalf of the Williamsburg City Council and the citizens of Williamsburg, I would like to formally welcome President Nichol and Dr. Mathews to our community. The City looks forward to positive and productive relationships with each of them as we work together to continually improve educational opportunities in our community.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Zeidler  
Mayor